

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A variable optical delay line comprising:

a plurality of fibers disposed in a closely spaced array, the array comprising a first parallel region, a curved region, and a second parallel region; each fiber having a first end disposed in a first linear array and a second end disposed in a second linear array, ~~the second linear array comprising fixed reflectors, and the curved regions of the fibers differ differing~~ in radii of curvature to provide a successive series of monotonically different path lengths, the path lengths differing by a few millimeters or less to provide small delay time increments;

separately switchable reflectors disposed in each of the fibers, the reflectors switchable between reflection and transmission to provide coarse delay increments.

2. (Currently Amended) The delay line of claim 1 ~~wherein the optical switch comprises further including a MEMs mirror optical switch optically coupled to the plurality of fibers for switching at least one optical input signal among the fibers of the plurality.~~

3. (Currently Amended) The delay line of claim 1 wherein ~~each fiber includes a the separately switchable reflectors comprise reflective Bragg grating gratings.~~

Claims 4-5 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

6. (Currently Amended) The delay line of claim 3 wherein the reflective Bragg grating ~~is gratings are formed in the second parallel region regions.~~

Claim 7 was previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

8. (Currently Amended) The delay line of claim 1 wherein the plurality of ~~optical~~ fibers are secured to a substrate of sheet material.

9. (Currently Amended) The delay line of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2 wherein the at least one optical input signal is ~~one a single~~ optical input signal and the optical switch comprises a 1XN MEMs mirror optical switch.

10. (Currently Amended) The delay line of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2 wherein the at least one optical input signal comprises a plurality of optical input signals and the optical switch comprises on NXN MEMs mirror optical switch.

11. (Currently Amended) The delay line of ~~claim 1~~ claim 2 wherein the at least one optical input signal comprises a plurality of optical input signals having respectively different wavelengths.

Kindly cancel Claims 12-20 without prejudice or disclaimer.